

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

In recognition that May 15th – May 21st is National EMS Week, the Madison County Board of Commissioners take this opportunity to commend all the dedicated volunteers who unselfishly give their time to help others in our County.

The Ruby Valley Ambulance Service and the Madison Valley Ambulance Service are made up of dedicated volunteers that provide emergency services to virtually all areas of Madison County. These volunteers provide service 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, in all types of weather conditions, to anywhere someone is in need of help. They leave their families at the dinner table, their jobs or businesses at a moment's notice, sometimes at significant loss of pay, and their beds in the middle of the night, to respond to a call for help.

Our Ambulance Services are supported by various Quick Response Units throughout the County, including Twin Bridges QRU, Alder QRU, Virginia City QRU and Harrison QRU. These Quick Response Units are also made up of volunteers that give priceless assistance to Ambulance crews. Without this valuable support ambulance crews would have a much more difficult job and patients or accident victims would possibly wait much longer to receive medical attention.

All responders are responsible for their own education and certification, which includes "Healthcare Provider" CPR, required hours of training, and continuing education. Many pay for much of this education out of their own pockets and the responders are all volunteers who receive no pay. Ambulance services are funded entirely by donations and fees charged for their services. Many of the EMS volunteers also give their time to local Fire Departments and/or Search and Rescue and often use their own equipment, vehicles and gas.

If you see one of these volunteers, please stop and thank him or her for their invaluable service to our communities. Also, please thank the businesses and employers who allow these people to leave their jobs and respond to a call at a moment's notice. All of these unselfish people help make our County a safer, healthier place to live. If you are interested in volunteering as an EMS in Madison County, please contact your local Ambulance Service, QRU, Fire Department or Search and Rescue Unit. If you are unsure of who to call, please contact the Commissioner's Office at 843-4277 and we'll point you in the right direction.